

TEACHING & LEARNING

Newsletter for EF Students, Alumni, Teachers, and Friends

Department of Economics and Finance (EF), City University of Hong Kong

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If you have any questions or comments related to the newsletter, please contact EF General Office efgo@cityu.edu.hk.

My Journey to Research Master's Degree in Spain

If you had told me a year ago that I'd be dedicating two years to a research master's in economics in Barcelona, I would have been surprised. Yet, here I am, grinding through the textbooks and tackling academic challenges. A year ago, I was an employee in a back-office role. While there were highlights, like completing improvement projects or addressing clients' urgent requests, my days inevitably revolved around the predictable rhythm of back-office tasks. It was during a particularly monotonous day at work that the realization hit me: I craved more than just routine. My plan was to gain new job experience in a different area. I knew I desired intellectual challenges, but I doubted my chances of being accepted into an overseas master's program. However, the thought persisted, and I started researching it. After gaining a firmer belief, I began consulting with professors for help, and they kindly offered advice and assisted with the applications. Even as I type this, the journey amazes me. It truly underscores the idea: you won't know unless you try.



My first day in Plaza de Catalunya

I had mixed feelings on my first day in Barcelona. This was my first visit to Spain and Europe. While excited to explore a new place, I was also worried about adapting to the city. However, time proved I was over-worrying. The city is full of landmarks and tourist spots. Before arriving, I barely knew about the Sagrada Família. In fact, you can walk past one of those landmarks without even noticing it. Looking back, I just thought they were cool and strange-looking buildings. So, the advice for those who don't stay as long as I do is to

do some homework on the location and history before exploring.

The unlucky part of the day was that I had to take a detour on the planned route to my residence, which included a section without an elevator, forcing me to carry my overweight luggage up the stairs. Fortunately, the people here are passionate about helping others, and I received assistance from a complete stranger, marking my first encounter with the friendly vibe of Barcelona.

Adapting to the new environment took me a few weeks. Although I knew that people mainly speak Catalan and Spanish here, I was still shocked by how hard communication could be. Shops start closing after 2:30 pm, so you really need to plan your day well. The relative cost of dining out and buying ingredients has made self-cooking a necessity. But bulk purchasing takes a lot of effort, and I wished I had a driver's license. Now, I've gotten used to it and feel comfortable with my surroundings. All it takes is time.



Catalan version of roasted chestnut

In addition to my academic classes, I have also enrolled in a Spanish class. Contrary to what one might expect, I find learning Spanish to be a source of relief. The classes are enjoyable, and, I suppose, they engage a different part of the brain, so they don't add to my stress. This has proven immensely helpful in my daily life, as English is not widely spoken here. To further destress, I have also taken up padel, a sport popular in Spain, Italy, and Hispanic countries. Being similar to tennis, my skills in tennis have made it easier for me to adapt to padel. Played

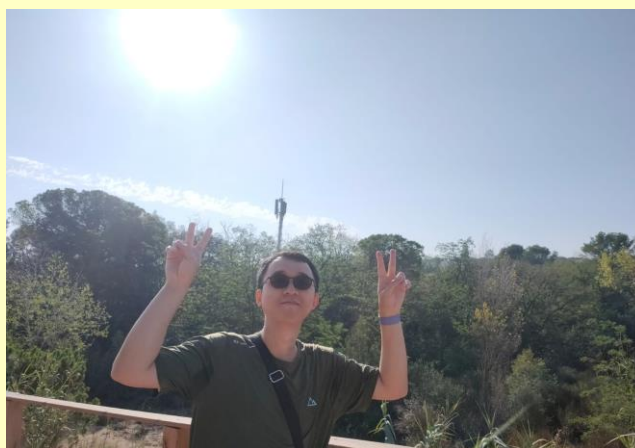
My usual school days here are divided into two main activities: studying and destressing. On one hand, I find satisfaction in the intellectual challenges presented by the master's program. On the other hand, the courses bring significant stress. The stress primarily stems from keeping pace with the dense curriculum, including learning proof writing and complex concepts like the Cramer-Rao lower bound, which is so complicated that our professor chose not to delve into its proof. On top of absorbing new ideas, revisiting long-unused knowledge can also be challenging, especially after being away from an academic setting for some time. I vividly recall the pressure during the study week before exams.

with four players, the social element of the game adds a refreshing dimension to my day. It helps me make new friends and interact with the PhD students in our program as well.

Of course, I miss Hong Kong. The convenience found in Hong Kong is incomparable, even to downtown Barcelona. I also miss the diverse variety of food. Although Barcelona has various restaurants, they tend to cater more to local palates. And, I admit, I am not a good cook. Beyond the tangible, my connections to friends, family, and my girlfriend feel weakened. I missed the birth of my friend's first child. I couldn't be there to take care of my family when they were in need. And maintaining a long-distance relationship with my



The Bellaterra Columns



During a hike in Sant Quirze del Vallès

girlfriend just makes life harder. However, the flip side is that this experience has given me the chance to reflect on myself and realize what is truly important to me. Through this experience, I've acquired a different taste of life and confirmed

my belief: you grow through new experiences and adventures. Vamos!

By **HUNG Hing Lun**, Business Economics graduate in 2019

My Fulfilling Volunteer Experience in Fiji

In the summer of 2023, I participated in the CB Summer Program of Service Learning in Fiji. Our journey led us to a local volunteer center known as "The Green Lion" in Korotogo, Sigatoka, where I had the privilege of spending a profoundly meaningful and unforgettable time with my fellow team members and volunteers from diverse corners of the world.

During our orientation day, we received an insightful introduction to The Green Lion, its mission, the scope of our service, and essential guidelines. For instance, we were briefed on an overview of the neighborhood and safety concerns. In the afternoon, we participated in a simulated wedding ceremony at The Green Lion to immerse ourselves in the local Kava culture.

We had the option to choose from four different projects: teaching (in primary schools), kindergarten support, construction, and sports education. I opted for both the kindergarten and sports education projects.

The kindergarten project involved us serving as teaching assistants in some local schools. Similar

to the teaching program, each morning, we'd split into various groups and head to different schools.

Our responsibilities encompassed assisting teachers in grading assignments, providing homework guidance to students, maintaining classroom order, and engaging in recreational activities with the children. Additionally, teachers permitted volunteers to prepare and deliver their own lessons. The Fijian children were brimming with energy and happiness, making our time together a joyous experience. Every Friday was designated as "sports day" at the school, during which students donned their sports attire and were transported to a nearby playground for outdoor play.

In the course of my interactions with the local teacher, she said, "Teaching these children often requires raising your voice and being strict, which can be exhausting. However, even if I'm absent for just one day, I find myself missing them dearly."



Simulated wedding ceremony and drinking kava



Sports Day for kindergarten kids



Playing games with kids

The Sports Education project involved participating in sports activities like volleyball, rugby, soccer, and jump rope with local residents at the field near the volunteer center. Additionally, we visited schools to engage in physical education sessions with the students. The local people exhibited impressive athleticism and a deep passion for sports. Despite the absence of professional facilities and equipment, their passion for sports has seamlessly integrated into their daily lives. One woman even humorously commented, "In our volleyball matches, the team that loses has to cook dinner."

During the week, we were engaged in volunteer work, while weekends provided us with the freedom to explore Fiji. Korotogo is just a 1.5-hour drive from the popular tourist destination of Nadi and a two-hour drive from the capital, Suva, making it ideal for day trips. So, we had the chance to visit many places in Fiji on weekends.

As our program neared its end, on the last Friday, we embarked on a community visit to a nearby



Visiting schools for physical education

village. This village boasted stunning seaside scenery, with children often playing by the shore. Our visit included tours of the village's church, meeting hall, plantation, and more, followed by a delicious dinner within the village. When we arrived, the village happened to be hosting a wedding, and it was quite lively. In the evening, we engaged in conversations with the village chief at the meeting hall and experienced our final kava ceremony in Fiji. The community visit allowed me to gain a

deeper understanding of the local way of life and the organization and functioning of the village. I had the opportunity to interact with the residents, observe their daily routines, and learn about their cultural traditions, which provided me with a more comprehensive appreciation of Fiji's culture and its people.

I strongly recommend this summer program for four compelling reasons. Firstly, it offers a prime opportunity to enhance your volunteer service skills, providing meaningful community engagement and skill development. Secondly, it immerses you deeply in the local culture through community visits, cultural ceremonies, and



The traditional dinners prepared by villagers for us

interactions with residents. Additionally, the program encourages friendships with my HK group members and other international volunteers. Over the period of a month, as we ate, lived, and conversed together as volunteers, our relationships grew closer than ever before. Finally, compared to tourism, this program represents a budget-friendly way to explore Fiji, while CB and the school will provide generous scholarships and subsidies, which are sufficient to offset the majority of the expenses.

In Fiji, everyone lives in Fiji time, signifying a more relaxed and flexible attitude toward

punctuality. This way of life has granted me a refreshing escape from Hong Kong's fast-paced life, where things tend to be less rushed and more leisurely. Therefore, this summer program has been a voyage of self-improvement and a path to healing for my spirit.

In the end, I am looking forward to having you join our future CB Summer Program of Service Learning.

By HE Wanyang, student in BBA Finance (Cohort 2022)



A group photo of CityU volunteers and coordinators from The Green Lion

An Experience Sharing of CALIS in Victoria, Canada

This summer, I participated in Cultural and Language Immersive Scheme (CALIS-Plus), a 6-week cultural and immersive program, specifically in the University of Victoria (UVic).

UVic is a public research university located in the city of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Founded in 1963, it has grown to become one of Canada's leading higher education institutions. UVic's campus is spread across a beautiful 402-acre area on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, surrounded by natural landscapes.

During the one-month journey in Victoria, I participated in many different activities, including English classes with international students, a professional communication course, and volunteering in a local charity. Apart from the regular activities structured by the hosting unit, I also joined many optional activities hosted by UVic, such as a downtown walking tour in Victoria, a visit to Butchart Garden, whale watching, kayaking, and the thrilling three-day trip to Vancouver. Throughout the one-month journey in Victoria, I made friends with local Canadians and connected with students from around the world, such as Brazil, Japan, Korea, and Portugal. This experience helped me understand more about other cultures, which are very different from Hong Kong. I learned the importance of cultural integration, cultural perseverance, and cultural respect.



A photo with an international student in my program

One of the most unforgettable and cherished experiences organized by UVic was undoubtedly the thrilling three-day trip to Vancouver. During this trip, we explored downtown Vancouver,

visited Canada Place, cycled in the stunning Stanley Park, savored local specialties at Granville Island market, walked the iconic Capilano Suspension Bridge, and shared a room with international students. The trip

began with the excitement of downtown Vancouver's vibrant atmosphere, where towering skyscrapers and diverse culture left a lasting impression.

Canada Place's architectural marvel and scenic waterfront views provided perfect photo opportunities. Cycling through Stanley Park, the city's largest urban oasis, was an unforgettable



My friends from other countries

adventure. Surrounded by nature's beauty, the lush greenery and picturesque trails offered a true connection with the outdoors.

Granville Island market was a gastronomic delight, offering an array of delicious local delicacies and a lively ambiance that engaged all our senses. The highlight of the trip was conquering the Capilano Suspension Bridge, an exhilarating experience suspended high above the Capilano River. The breathtaking views and thrilling walk

made our hearts race with excitement. Sharing a room with international students fostered cultural understanding and lasting friendships. Late-night conversations and laughter created bonds that transcended our diverse backgrounds.

Besides, I learned several things in many different ways, such as cultural knowledge, the local Canadian perspective on different topics, and some survival skills.

Politeness is a significant cultural aspect in Canada. In Canadian society, politeness is highly valued, and it is customary to apologize when one has done something that could be perceived negatively. Canadians always express their gratitude to others. In Victoria, everyone will say "thank you" to the bus driver when you get off the bus, and the bus driver will say "hi" to you when you get on the bus. Additionally, when meeting someone, it is expected to introduce oneself and offer a handshake if appropriate. I often shake hands with the students in Quebec in the morning.

Furthermore, the difference in nature may also be caused by cultural differences. I would say that nature holds a paramount place in the hearts of Canadians. Gardening and planting are common among local Canadians. Nature serves as a significant revenue source for the Canadian government and offers abundant opportunities

for sporting activities. Furthermore, it contributes to the unique charm of Canada. This is why many areas are protected, some of which are completely off-limits to the public. Therefore, in Canada, it is imperative to respect nature and strive to preserve it. Respecting nature and avoiding any damage to the environment is a cultural norm that is highly encouraged and expected.

The 6-week journey in Victoria, BC Canada, was a captivating blend of natural beauty, cultural richness, and warm hospitality. From the enchanting Butchart Gardens to the historical charm of the city and the serene Gulf Islands, Victoria offered a unique and memorable experience. The city's commitment to sustainability, vibrant culinary scene, and friendly locals left an indelible mark on me. Leaving Victoria was bittersweet. I was sad to say

goodbye to the breathtaking landscapes, the rich history, and the delicious food. But I also left with a heart full of memories and a newfound appreciation for the beauty of Vancouver Island and its vibrant capital city, Victoria. This trip was a reminder that there is so much to explore and discover in this world, and Victoria will always hold a special place in my heart as a destination that touched my soul in more ways than one.

By LEE Yui Paang, student in BBA Finance (Cohort 2019)



A Nature Walk

JOINT BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMME

The following students have successfully admitted to the **Joint Bachelor's Degree Programme between City University of Hong Kong and Columbia University** in 2023-24. After completing the first two years study in City University of Hong Kong, they will study in Columbia University in United States for 2 years.

Name	Cohort	Major
FANG Gezi	2022	Business Economics
HUANG Haoxuan	2022	Business Economics
WU Junwei	2022	Business Economics

CAREER SUPPORTS

To let our students have a better understanding of different business sectors, we have held five career experience-sharing forums and two professional seminars in 2023/24. We invite alumni and professionals to share their career experiences with our students. By attending the forums and seminars, students can gain up to date information in the industry and learn the necessary skills to have in the respective areas. It better prepares our students for their future career.

Career Experience-Sharing Forum		
Date	Forum Host and Moderator	Speakers
November 25, 2023	Prof. K. C. LIM	<p>Kurt Wang, BBA Finance, CityU Director, PE Investments, China Ping An Insurance Overseas</p> <p>Rui Wang, BBA QFRM, CityU Equity Research Analyst, Nan Fung Trinity</p> <p>Joy Chen, MSc, Columbia University Director, Corporate Sales, CNCBI</p>
January 21, 2024	Prof. K. C. LIM	<p>Eric Chan, MSc Financial Engineering, CityU Product Manager, OKX HK</p> <p>Candy Wong, MSc Finance, LBS Formerly Managing Director, Morgan Stanley Asia</p> <p>Yang Yufei, MSc Finance, CityU Investment Counsellor, CITIC Securities HK</p>
January 27, 2024	Prof. K. C. LIM	<p>Thomas Kwan, BSc Finance, CityU MD, Corporate Finance, Odysseus Capital</p> <p>Cousin Suen, BBA Financial Engineering, CityU VP, Treasury Financial Control and Advisory, OCBC</p> <p>Gary Yeung, BBA QFRM, CityU VP, JP Morgan</p>

March 09, 2024	Prof. K. C. LIM	<p>Lillian Liem, BBA Finance, CityU Vice President, CNCBI</p> <p>Steven Wang, BBA QFRM, CityU Portfolio Manager, Hedge Fund</p> <p>Jessica Wu, BBA Finance, CityU Portfolio Manager, HSBC</p> <p>Rita Xiao, BBA Finance, CityU Director, Baillie Gifford</p>
March 17, 2024	Prof. K. C. LIM	<p>Alex Li, BBA QFRM, CityU Portfolio Manager, Hedge Fund</p> <p>Lillian Liem, BBA Finance, CityU Vice President, CNCBI</p> <p>Phisit Sucharitsopit, MSc Financial Engineering, CityU CIO, Mula-X Holding</p> <p>Rita Xiao, BBA Finance, CityU Director, Baillie Gifford</p>

Professional Seminars		
Date	Forum Host and Moderator	Topics and Speakers
March 23, 2024	Prof. K. C. LIM	Topic: Updates on the Banking Industry and Career Perspectives, presented by Alan Lee, Managing Director of Standard Chartered Bank
April 13, 2024	Prof. K. C. LIM	Topic: Lifecycle of Real Estate Fund Investments, presented by Disheng Lin, Managing Director at PJT Park Hill; Shelson Lim, Executive Director at SC Capital Partners; Zhenni Cai, Associate Director at Goodman; Kyu Baek Kim, Vice President at TriO Capital

STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Our students have actively participated in the student exchange program. The following list shows some exchange institutions in our exchange program in 2023-24:

- Aalto University, Finland
- Aarhus University, Denmark
- Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan
- Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain
- City University of New York, USA
- Clarkson University, USA
- Copenhagen Business School, Denmark
- Durham University, UK
- Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, Germany
- EDHEC Business School, France
- Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- HEC Montreal, Canada
- Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po), France
- Jönköping University, Sweden
- Linköping University, Sweden
- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany
- Lund University, Sweden
- McGill University, Canada
- National Taiwan University, Taiwan
- National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan
- Queen Mary University of London, UK
- Radboud University Nijmegen, Netherlands
- Renmin University of China, PRC
- San Jose State University, USA
- Seoul National University, Korea
- Shanghai Jiao Tong University, PRC
- Sophia University, Japan
- Stockholm University, Sweden
- Sungkyunkwan University, Korea
- Technische Universität München, Germany
- Tilburg University, the Netherlands
- University of East Anglia, UK
- Universidad de Navarra, Spain
- Universiteit Maastricht, the Netherlands
- University of Antwerp, Belgium
- University of Bath, UK
- University of Bern, Switzerland
- University of Calgary, Canada
- University of Central Florida, USA
- University of Dundee, UK
- University of Helsinki, Finland
- University of Southampton, UK
- University of Strathclyde, UK
- University of Sussex, UK
- University of Technology, Sydney
- University of Waterloo, Canada
- University Paris 1, Panthéon-Sorbonne, France
- Waseda University, Japan
- WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business), Austria
- York University, Canada

Recent Teaching and Learning Activities

Orientation:

- EF Orientation, August 31, 2023

Learning Support:

- Student Exchange Programme 2023/2024
- Peer-Assisted Learning Scheme (PALSI) (CB2400 and CB2402 in Semester A and B, 2023/24)
- Undergraduate Mentoring Programme 2023/24

Career Preparation:

Departmental Internship Programme 2023/24

- The following list shows the companies that our students have participated as Intern:

– AIP Partners C.P.A. Limited	– Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited
– Allied Power Corporate Advisory Limited	– Hong Kong Management Association
– Baker Tilly (Hong Kong)	– HSBC
– Bank of China (Hong Kong)	– Jadeite
– Bank of Communications Co., Ltd.	– Jardine Airport Services Limited
– Bank of the Philippine Islands International Finance Limited	– JMD & Partners CPA Limited
– Brightway	– JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong
– CLSA (Credit Lyonnais Securities Asia)	– OCBC Bank (Hong Kong) Limited
– D.P. Lau & Co.	– OnePlatform Wealth Management
– Decathlon Hong Kong Company Limited	– Penjing Asset Management (Asia)
– Elephas Investment Management Limited	– PT Adaro Indonesia
– Eric KL NG CPA Limited	– Qianhai Financial Holdings
– Ernst & Young	– Shine Spring Investment Limited
– Government Logistics Department	– Swire Properties
– Hang Seng Bank	– TVC Management Limit
	– Wells Fargo
	– Western Securities
	– YF Life Insurance International
	– Zhongtian Securities
- Career Experience-Sharing Forum on November 25, 2023, January 21, 2024, January 27, 2024, March 9, 2024, and March 17, 2024
- Professional Seminars for undergraduate students on March 23, 2024, and April 13, 2024
- Internship Programmes organized by College of Business (CB3800) and Career and Leadership Center

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